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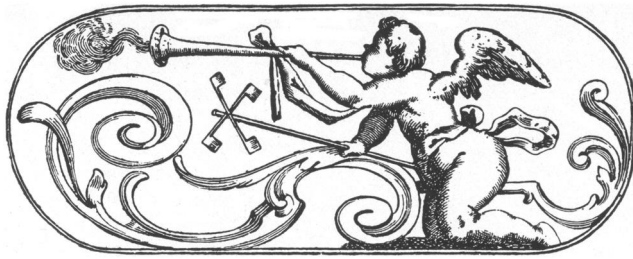
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THE CATALOGUE OF BRONZES

THE public in New York has long since recognized the steady progress at the Museum during recent years in making its rich collections attractive and available to the general visitor. It would indeed be a careless observer who did not note the effective arrangement, to cite but a few

examples, of the Egyptian rooms and the splendid collection of armor, the immense improvement in the display of paintings, or who could forget the extraordinary series of special exhibitions of rich collections, partly lent, which have given evidence of eager desire on the part of the authorities of the Museum to spare no pains in their efforts to make the institution a powerful and cultivating influence in the life of the city.

There is, however, another side to the functions of a great museum less obvious, no doubt, to the general public, but nevertheless vastly important, since it concerns the position in scientific achievement the institution shall take, and hence the reputation it shall have in the world of scholarship and learning. No hard and fast line between the popular and scientific sides of museum activities can of course be drawn, but it may safely be maintained that the standards of the former line of work will deteriorate, if the latter is forgotten. And this latter class of work sometimes means expenditure of money where the return is not immediate and often not obvious, so that foresight and good judgment, and perhaps faith and imagination as well, are needed on the part of the responsible authorities, if this vital element in the situation is not to be forgotten.

The Trustees of the Museum are surely to be congratulated on the wisdom they are showing in publishing catalogues of high scientific value, for these are perhaps the most important means by which the treasures of a museum can be made known to workers in other museums and to scholars in foreign lands. Such publications are important links in the chain which binds together the scholarly activity of the world. To be good they must of necessity be rather costly, and the pecuniary return from sale cannot be at all commensurate with the outlay, nor do they preclude the necessity of the publication of cheaper and more popular handbooks for the general public, but it is none the less the mark of a well-managed museum to publish such catalogues. The two specimens of such scientific activity which have recently appeared—Professor Myres's extremely able volume